

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 4/29/2011

GAIN Report Number: GR1103

Greece

Post: Rome

Greece Dairy 2011 Semi-Annual

Report Categories:

Dairy and Products

Approved By:

James Dever

Prepared By:

Ornella Bettini

Report Highlights:

The Greek dairy industry is the third most important segment of the food and drink sector. MY 2011/2012 Greek milk production, consumption, and trade are forecast to remain steady from the previous year.

Milk

Table 1: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (1000 MT)

Milk	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Cows In Milk	154	144	144
Cow's Milk Deliveries to Dairies	752	688	688
Other Milk Production	1,318	1,368	1,370
Total Milk Production/Deliveries	2,070	2,056	2,058
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
Total Supply	2,070	2,056	2,058
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Fluid Use Dom. Consumption	471	473	470
Factory Use Dom. Consumption	1,771	1,779	1,767
Feed Use Dom. Consumption	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	2,242	2,252	2,237
Total Distribution	2,242	2,252	2,237

Source: Eurostat + unofficial sources

The Greek dairy industry is the third most important segment of the food and drink sector, accounting for 17 percent of the total. While the majority of milk collected in the EU comes from cows, the greater part of Greek milk comes from sheep and goats. According to Eurostat and unofficial sources, MY 2011/2012 Greek milk production, consumption, and trade are forecast to remain steady from the previous year. Germany supplies about 81% of Greece's milk import demand. Greece exports small amounts of milk to Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Italy.

Cheese

Table 2: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Cheese	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Production	214,000	218,000	220,000
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
Total Supply	214,000	218,000	220,000
Extra EU27 Exports	6	6	6
Human Dom. Consumption	285,000	283,000	285,000
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	285,000	283,000	285,000
Total Distribution	291,000	289,000	291,000

Source: Eurostat + unofficial sources

MY 2011/2012 Greek cheese production, consumption, and trade are forecast to remain stable. Cheese is a traditional product of the Greek dairy industry. Cheese is produced mainly in Northern Greece and the mountainous areas throughout the country (Macedonia, Thrace, Epirus, Thessaly, Sterea Hellas, Peloponnisos, Lesvos, and Mitilini). Greece produces a large number of DOC (Controlled Denomination of Origin) cheeses from sheep and goat's milk. (Anthotiros, Formaella of Parnassos, Graviera of Crete, Kasseri, Kalathaki of Limmos, Kefalograviera, Kefalotiri, Kopanisti, Ladotiri of Mitilini, Manouri, Metsovone, and Mizithra). Greek yogurt is made from both sheep and cow's milk.

Cheese products account for about 13 percent of sales in Greek supermarkets. Feta is the most well-known Greek cheese and the most consumed in Greece. It is made from 70 percent of sheep's milk and 30 percent of goat's milk. Feta is a type of brine matured cheese, packaged in traditional wooden barrels, tin vessels, or wrapped in plastic. It is growing in popularity in developed markets for its lower fat content, when compared to traditional European cheeses.

Greece imports cheese mainly from Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. Germany continues to be the main destination for Greek cheese exports, accounting for almost 35 percent of the total.

Butter

Table 3: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Butter	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Production	1,600	1,600	1,600
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
Total Supply	1,600	1,600	1,600
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Human Dom. Consumption	11,000	12,000	12,000
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	11,000	12,000	12,000
Total Distribution	11,000	12,000	12,000

Source: Eurostat + unofficial sources

Greek butter production is small and expected to remain stable at 1,600 MT. MY 2011/2012 Greek butter consumption and trade are forecast to remain steady from the previous year. Greece imports butter mainly from Germany and Denmark, which together account for 46 percent of total Greek imports.

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

HS codes:

Milk Fluid: 040110, 040120

Cheese: 040620, 040630, 040640, 040690

Butter: 040510

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

MY Marketing year: January/December